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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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APR 20 1993

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AIR AND RADIATION

Donna Searcy, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, DC 20554

APR 12 1993

RE: Comments on ET Docket No. 93-7  
"Implementation of Section 17 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection  
and Competition Act of 1992"

The matter currently before your Commission regarding the compatibility of cable TV and VCRs, and the security of cable service may have significant implications for U.S. energy use and the subsequent air pollution emissions from electricity generation.

By one estimate cited in *Videography*, set-top conversion boxes consume ten times more electricity than point-of-entry alternatives, a difference of 12 billion kilowatt hours per year nationally. In addition to the obvious economic costs associated with 12 billion kilowatt hours of electricity use -- \$900 million per year in added electricity bills -- this added energy use would contribute to emissions of the primary greenhouse gas carbon dioxide worth 9 million metric tonnes of carbon. For comparison, consider that 9 million metric tonnes of carbon is a larger impact than 12 of the 23 energy-efficiency programs adopted by the U.S. as its Action Plan on Climate.

While I cannot speak to the other relative merits of the proposals, I strongly encourage you to weigh heavily the economic and environmental effects of the energy-use requirements of the various alternatives before the Commission.

Sincerely,

*John S. Hoffman*  
(deputy)  
John S. Hoffman, Director  
Global Change Division

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